

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4477
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reducing High Risk
3 to Veterans and Veterans Services Act”.

4 SEC. 2. REPORT AND PLANNED ACTIONS OF THE SEC-
5 RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADDRESS
6 CERTAIN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF THE DEPART-
7 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

8 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Comptroller
11 General of the United States, shall submit to the Commit-
12 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
13 resentatives a report outlining the plan the Secretary has
14 developed and the actions the Secretary has taken to ad-
15 dress the areas of concern identified by the Comptroller
16 General for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the
17 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability
18 Office (GAO-19-157SP) regarding—

1 (1) acquisition management; and

2 (2) managing risks and improving health care.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
4 shall include each of the following:

5 (1) Root causes of the areas of concern de-
6 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

7 (2) Corrective actions and specific steps to ad-
8 dress each root cause, including—

9 (A) the progress of the Secretary in imple-
10 menting those actions and steps; and

11 (B) timelines and milestones the Secretary
12 determines feasible to complete each corrective
13 action.

14 (3) Resources the Secretary determines are nec-
15 essary to implement corrective actions, including—

16 (A) funding;

17 (B) stakeholders;

18 (C) technology; and

19 (D) senior officials responsible for imple-
20 menting the corrective actions and reporting re-
21 sults.

22 (4) Metrics for assessing progress in addressing
23 the areas of concern described in paragraphs (1) and
24 (2) of subsection (a).

1 (5) Key outcomes that demonstrate progress in
2 addressing the areas of concern described in para-
3 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

4 (6) Obstacles to implementation of the plan
5 that the Secretary identifies.

6 (7) Recommendations of the Secretary regard-
7 ing legislation or funding the Secretary determines
8 necessary to implement the plan.

9 (8) Any other information the Secretary deter-
10 mines is relevant to understanding the progress of
11 the Department toward the removal of the areas of
12 concern from the High Risk List.

13 (c) ANNUAL UPDATES.—

14 (1) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not less than once
15 each year during the implementation period under
16 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
17 gress an update regarding implementation of each
18 element of the plan under subsection (b).

19 (2) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.—The implemen-
20 tation period described in this paragraph begins on
21 the date on which the Secretary submits the report
22 required under subsection (a) and ends on the ear-
23 lier of the following dates:

24 (A) The date on which the Comptroller
25 General removes the last area of concern for

1 the Department from the most recent High-
2 Risk List of the Government Accountability Of-
3 fice.

4 (B) The date that is eight years after the
5 date on which the Secretary submits the plan
6 required under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY**
9 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMPTROLLER GEN-**
10 **ERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PERTAINING**
11 **TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

12 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than
13 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
14 not less than once during each of the subsequent three
15 years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
16 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
17 House of Representatives and to the Comptroller General
18 of the United States a report on the implementation of
19 priority recommendations of the Comptroller General that
20 pertain to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

21 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
22 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
23 port, the following:

24 (1) The progress of the Secretary in imple-
25 menting all open priority recommendations of the

1 Comptroller General for the Department of Veterans
2 Affairs.

3 (2) An explanation for each instance where the
4 Secretary has decided not to implement, or has not
5 fully implemented, an open priority recommendation
6 of the Comptroller General for the Department.

7 (3) A summary of the corrective actions taken
8 and remaining steps the Secretary plans to take to
9 implement open priority recommendations of the
10 Comptroller General.

11 (c) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT CERTAIN RE-
12 QUIRED REPORTS OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS.—The re-
13 port under this section shall not be construed to supplant
14 any report or written statement required under section
15 720 of title 31, United States Code.

